

The CHAIRMAN: Shall section 69 carry?  
Carried.

Hon. Mr. HARRIS: The next is section 70.

70. (1) The Minister may operate farms on reserves and may employ such persons as he considers necessary to instruct Indians in farming and may purchase and distribute without charge, pure seed to Indian farmers.

(2) The Minister may apply any profits that result from the operation of farms on reserves to extend farming operations on the reserves or to make loans to Indians to enable them to engage in farming or other agricultural operations or he may apply such profits in any way that he considers to be desirable to promote the progress and development of Indians.

Mr. Blackmore asked about the number of government farms in Saskatchewan and there is an explanation here.

In regard to Mr. Blackmore's question on Section 70, Bill 79, this section is intended to provide for the establishment and operation by the department of what might be called experimental farms. The land selected for such a purpose would be on a reserve of the band and where circumstances called for rental being payable, it would be paid.

Although at one time there were a considerable number of such farms in Canada, at present there is only one, i.e., at Caradoc in the province of Ontario. This farm, in addition to being a demonstration project, is used to supply seed, other grain, potatoes, hay and straw to members of the band at less cost than if the commodities were bought on the open market. In addition, loans are made from the profits to assist Indians in their farming activities. As at March 31, 1951, the balance on hand in this account, which is entirely handled on the reserve, was \$6,690.40.

There are, however, 23 band farms in Saskatchewan. These are on lands set aside by resolution of the band for the purpose and eventually all profits will be credited to the trust accounts of the respective bands. At present, 16 are financed entirely by band funds, while 5 are financed from band funds augmented by revolving fund loans. The remaining 2 are financed so far, entirely by revolving fund loans.

In Ontario there are only 2 farms being operated by the department—the one at Caradoc, referred to above, and one at Golden Lake, the latter named financed entirely by revolving fund loan.

Mr. FULTON: I would like to raise this point. If it has been discussed before I will not pursue it further, but if it has not been discussed I would like the minister or the director to comment. It involves the degree of co-operation between the departmental agriculturists and the provincial agricultural personnel.

In British Columbia, at least in the part from which I come, the Indians have from time to time suggested that they are not fully served by the departmental agriculturists and they have recommended that more attention be paid to this matter. In discussing it with others it has been suggested to me that one solution might be to allow the provincial agricultural advisors to co-operate with the departmental ones to a greater extent and, in fact, do more work on the reserve. I am not suggesting that the Indian Affairs branch should abandon the agricultural service as it applies to Indians but I understand at the present time the provincial agriculturists are not encouraged. Sometimes it has been put as strongly as they are not permitted to go on reserves. I feel there is room for greater co-operation and that it is one field in which our treatment of the Indians might be brought into line with our treatment and the status of the white